

**MINUTES**  
**Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission Meeting**  
**Helena FWP Headquarters – 1420 East 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue**  
**Helena, MT 59263**

**NOVEMBER 3, 2005**

**Commission Members Present:** Steve Doherty, Chairman; Tim Mulligan, Vice-Chairman; John Brenden; Vic Workman.

**Fish, Wildlife & Parks Staff Present:** Jeff Hagener, Director and FWP Staff

**Guests:** See November 3, 2005 Commission file folder.

**Topics of Discussion:**

- 1. Opening - Pledge of Allegiance**
- 2. Approval of October 6, 2005 Commission Minutes**
- 3. Approval of Commission Expenses through October 31, 2005**
- 4. Recognition Award to Carol Duval for 20 Years of Service to FWP**
- 5. Recognition of Comprehensive Fish & Wildlife Conservation Strategy Planning Effort**
- 6. 2006 Annual Commission Meeting Calendar – Tentative**
- 7. Translocation of Wild Turkeys in Blaine County - Endorsement**
- 8. Translocation of Swift Fox to Ft. Peck Reservation - Endorsement**
- 9. Bowdoin WMA Potential Disposal – Endorsement**
- 10. Beckman Estate Land Gift - Barber Property/Beckman WMA - Final**
- 11. Biennial Big Game Regulations Discussion – Informational**
- 12. Amendment of the Waterbody Index Rule - ARM 12.11.501 - Tentative**
- 13. Commercial Use Administrative Rules for FWP Lands - Endorsement**
- 14. River Recreation Update – Informational**
- 15. 2006 Non-Resident Combination License Rule / Variable Priced Licensing –Final**
- 16. Georgetown Lake No-Wake Zone - Final**
- 17. Medicine River Fishing Access Site – Endorsement**
- 18. Echo Lake Fishing Access Site Acquisition – Final**
- 19. Public Opportunity to Address Issues Not Discussed at this Meeting**

**1. Opening - Pledge of Allegiance.** Chairman Doherty called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. Approval of October 6, 2005 Commission Minutes.**

*Action: Workman moved and Brenden seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the October 6, 2005 Commission meeting. Motion carried.*

**3. Approval of Commission Expenses through October 31, 2005.**

*Action: Mulligan moved and Brenden seconded the motion to approve the Commission expenses as presented. Motion carried.*

**4. Recognition Award to Carol Duval for 20 Years of Service to FWP.** Jeff Hagener, FWP Director, presented Carol Duval with a Montana Silversmith watch and thanked her for her twenty years of dedicated service to FWP. Duval began her career with FWP in the Field Services Design and Construction Bureau, and is currently working in the Enforcement Division. Hagener commended her for her accomplishments, and expressed appreciation for her commitment to the agency.

**5. Recognition of Comprehensive Fish & Wildlife Conservation Strategy Planning Effort.** Director Hagener thanked the dedicated team of FWP staff members who pulled together to develop the first complete assessment of the status of Montana's fish and wildlife, and the habitat in which they reside. The results of their hard work culminated in the *Comprehensive Fish and Wildlife Conservation Strategy*, an informative document that identifies many conservation concerns and the actions essential to ensuring the preservation of the state's wildlife.

Members of the team include Adam Brooks, Steve Carson, Rebecca Cooper, Andrew Jakes, Janet Hess-Herbert, Ken McDonald, Adam Messer, Tom Palmer, Jenny Pelej, Brad Schmitz, T.O. Smith, Jim Williams, and Heidi Youmans. **Director Hagener and Chris Smith, FWP Chief of Staff,** presented the team members with plaques of appreciation and again thanked them for their efforts.

**6. 2006 Annual Commission Meeting Calendar – Tentative.** Hagener stated that FWP is proposing to reduce the number of annual on-site Commission meetings to eight. This proposal is due to a couple of factors, one being the recent rise in fuel costs, and another due to modest meeting agendas that could perhaps be combined with another meeting or handled by conference call. The proposal is to hold eight monthly meetings either in Helena or in the regions, and conduct conference call meetings for the remaining four months unless circumstances necessitate a different course of action. Two or three meetings are typically held in the regions each year, and because the Commission met in Great Falls, Billings, and Scobey (Regions 4, 5 and 6) in 2005, Regions 1, 2, 3 or 7 are the options for 2006.

Workman suggested holding the July meeting in Kalispell and the August meeting in Missoula, and Doherty suggested holding the May meeting in Miles City.

Childress explained that setting an early date in March for big game decisions was more conducive to receiving and evaluating public comments, as well as for allowing a greater timeline to print regulations. He also noted that the shorter agenda in December reflects the effects of creating a biennial season setting process.

Brenden said his experience with conference calls has been unpleasant. He said it is difficult to hear and to interrelate, and a better system needs to be put in place if the Commission is to conduct business through conference calls. Hagener assured the Commission that the Department would check into it.

*Action: Mulligan moved and Brenden seconded the motion to approve the proposed tentative 2006 Commission schedule. Motion carried.*

**7. Translocation of Wild Turkeys in Blaine County – Endorsement.** Don Childress, FWP Wildlife Division Administrator, said that in the past, turkeys have been transplanted in eastern Montana, and sportsmen's clubs have expressed interest in the Department continuing with the process. FWP has contacted the landowners in the proposed area, and all twenty-eight are in agreement with the proposal. FWP will work with the Wild Turkey Federation as well.

*Action: Brenden moved and Mulligan seconded the motion to proceed with a turkey transplant in the proposed area.*

Doherty questioned if access would be a concern. Childress said access was addressed with the landowners in the agreement, and he added that some landowners are currently enrolled in block management.

*Action on Motion: Motion carried.*

**8. Translocation of Swift Fox to Ft. Peck Reservation – Endorsement.** Don Childress, FWP Wildlife Division Administrator, said Swift Fox have reestablished themselves, and are doing well in the north-central part of the state. The Ft. Peck Tribe has expressed interest in transplanting ten swift fox from Region 6 onto their Reservation.

FWP, in conjunction with Canada, will be conducting an international survey this winter to establish overall population levels of the Swift Fox. This will provide an excellent opportunity for relocation of the ten fox, as personnel will already be on the ground trapping them.

The EA generated supportive comments other than a couple of questions regarding effects on upland game birds. Swift Fox, by nature, are not going to be in pheasant habitat – they are short-grass prairie-associated animals, and are very small in stature. They feed primarily on mice, small birds, grasshoppers, etc. FWP does not feel the Swift Fox is an issue as far as being considered a predator of bird populations. The relocations would be on the western side of the Reservation where the habitat is best. The program for release is called a modified soft release where they are held for a period of time, after which they tend to stay pretty much in that area when released.

Brenden said he has had discussions with several people that are against the translocation as they are worried about depredation on bird populations and eggs. He asked what they eat. Childress reiterated that they eat rats, mice, grasshoppers, small birds, eggs from nests, etc. but they do not take large birds. Brenden asked where the trapping will occur. Childress replied that the survey would include 80 townships across northern Montana, so trapping will be incidental, not all from one place. Transplanting expedites the process that would naturally happen over time anyway. Childress said the Swift Fox are returning and starting to build in population.

Mulligan asked if there were ever any ESA requirements or management plans on the Swift Fox. Childress stated that the Swift Fox was a candidate for listing as an endangered species at one time. A multi-state Swift Fox Plan was developed, and the State also developed a plan. The population is returning and continuing to build. FWP has been more active in working with Swift Fox across the northern part of the state through surveys and introductions on the Blackfeet Reservation. The survey this winter will provide better numbers as far as populations statistics.

Mulligan asked if the reservations are required to abide by this management plan, or if they need to develop their own plan. Childress said reservations are separate in all aspects when dealing with the USFWS. In this particular case, the tribe is working with the USFWS to develop a wildlife plan for the reservation, and they have received a grant from the USFWS to follow through on it.

Mulligan questioned if the translocation is dependent on their management plan being in place. Childress said this has been part of the discussions, but the tribes can work with USFWS and do anything they want, according to their terms, because they are in charge of the ESA. In this case, the Swift Fox is no longer a candidate species, so the Commission can make the determination.

Mulligan asked if this is a good thing to do, to which Childress replied that in the long run, it will provide better distribution of the Swift Fox in a quicker time period. They will migrate over time anyway.

Doherty clarified that the Ft. Peck Tribe requested that ten Swift Fox be transplanted onto the Reservation to reestablish the population within the reservation. The Tribe will monitor them after their release.

Mulligan is concerned that the Tribe has no management plan in place, and no means to protect them after relocation. Childress said they have a plan for release and monitoring, but he does not know if there are hunting or trapping opportunities for them, or if there is a regulated take on the reservation. **Brian Giddings, FWP Furbearer Coordinator**, said he is not sure about regulated take, but he imagines that it is prohibited.

*Action: Brenden moved to table this discussion until such time as population numbers are provided to assure there are enough Swift Fox to translocate prudently, and until FWP is advised of the Tribe's plan for what will happen to the Swift Fox after relocation. Mulligan seconded the motion with the amendment that tribal enforcement regulations for protection of the Swift Fox also be provided. Motion carried. Three if favor – one opposed (Workman)..*

**9. Bowdoin WMA Potential Disposal – Endorsement. Don Childress, FWP Wildlife Division Administrator**, said this 156-acre parcel is located near Malta, in Phillips County, adjacent to the Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge. FWP purchased this parcel from the Great Northern Railroad in 1964 for \$2,300. The site was originally used as a steam train water site because of its proximity to deep ponds located there. The ponds are deep and muddy with little vegetation growing in them, and the land is not conducive for use as wildlife habitat, therefore FWP would like to dispose of the property. An environmental assessment revealed nothing hazardous on site, only some old roofing materials left behind. Cement foundations and excavated holes pose public safety issues and would need to be dealt with should FWP retain the property. FWP proposes to provide the site to the US Fish and Wildlife Service, at fair market value, for use as an access into the refuge.

Doherty asked if the USFWS would be the most likely candidate to buy the land, to which Childress replied yes. Workman asked if there will be deed restrictions or if FWP will get the highest value for the land. Doherty said access to the refuge is of great importance and he would not favor a sale to someone who denies access – if USFWS maintains access, he supports that concept. Childress said this site is the only access point into this end of the refuge. Tim said the EA will present more options.

*Action: Brenden moved and Workman seconded the motion that the Department explore the possible disposition and sale of the Bowdoin Wildlife Management Area. Motion carried.*

**10. Beckman Estate Land Gift - Barber Property/Beckman WMA – Final. Don Childress, FWP Wildlife Division Administrator,** explained that LeRoy Beckman had set up a trust for mule deer habitat with the stipulation that FWP manage the acquired lands. This 1,674-acre parcel, known as the Barber property, is the final piece of property to be purchased from the trust fund, and is located adjacent to the 4,890-acre Beckman Wildlife Management Area. This land has a lease-back clause to the Barbers until September 30, 2012, when an existing CRP contract expires on 56 acres. Childress said the proposal also includes a hay lease.

This acquisition expends the final dollars in the Beckman trust. The Department also proposes to expend approximately \$15,000 to complete the transaction, as the estate is short of funds by that amount. All water and mineral rights will transfer with the property.

The Beckman Estate has, over the last 6 years, contributed over 3 million dollars towards creation of what will now become a premier 6,500-acre wildlife management area. This area is open to public recreational use and provides valuable deer habitat.

*Action: Mulligan moved and Workman seconded the motion to accept the donation of the Barber property from the R.B. Beckman Estate for addition to the Beckman Wildlife Management Area, as well as to approve the expenditure of approximately \$15,000 of Habitat Montana funds to finalize this acquisition. Motion carried.*

**11. Biennial Big Game Regulations Discussion – Informational. Don Childress, FWP Wildlife Division Administrator,** said that establishing biennial rules would provide more efficiency, would reduce the workload on staff, and would not eliminate or preclude the Commission from making changes. He said it is unlikely that we will see nature fluctuations, however if anything major were to happen, the Commission would still have authority to address the issues. Childress said this would become part of the process done in March.

Biennial regulations would eliminate going over the same things every year. Childress said public comment would be solicited if the Commission approves this proposal, and he added that this process is already in place on some species. The Department has the authority to do this without going through the Arm process.

Mulligan stated that in interim years, the Department has changed from one structure to the other. He supports setting biennial regulations, however he wants to see how much progress has been made on the Elk Management Plan.

Hagener said there will be a discussion on the Elk Management Plan in December. The recommendation is to proceed with it as planned. Mulligan said he would not support the biennial process until the Elk Plan is finished. Hagener said this is already done with some of the other seasons, such as moose, sheep and goat.

Childress said biennial regulations will be proposed at the December Commission meeting as a tentative recommendation.

**12. Amendment of the Waterbody Index Rule - ARM 12.11.501 – Tentative.** Chris Smith, FWP Chief of Staff, introduced Bob Lane, FWP Chief Legal Counsel, who explained that this proposed rule amendment is merely a housekeeping amendment that will reflect in the ARM Waterbody Index the rule changes that have occurred regarding the various waters over the last year. This amendment will bring the Index up-to-date. Lane explained that some of the actions taken, such as no-wake zones in western Montana, were reflected in the Index at the same time as the rule was amended, therefore would not be included in this particular amendment.

*Action: Workman moved and Mulligan seconded the motion to approve that FWP continue with the rule making process for amendment of the Waterbody Index Rule – ARM 12.11.501. Motion carried.*

**13. Commercial Use Administrative Rules for FWP Lands – Endorsement.** Chris Smith, FWP Chief of Staff, explained that FWP currently owns or controls 500,000 acres of land in Montana that fall into the categories of either fishing access sites, wildlife management areas, or state parks. FWP has received a number of requests for a variety of commercial uses on both lands and waters under FWP jurisdiction, and more and more requests are coming in. The Department is developing a comprehensive set of administrative rules that would govern all types of commercial use that occurs on lands and waters under the control, administration, and jurisdiction of FWP to address these increasing requests.

Outfitters are already commercially using rivers. More and more requests are received asking to access the state parks and WMAs for filming commercials, for birding trips, and for guided trail rides along the Rocky Mountain Front. Historically, the USFWS allowed no commercial use in WMAs. Two years ago, however, the USFWS entrusted the commercial use challenge to the State as there is nothing in the federal regulations that regulates commercial use other than the stipulation that no use will be allowed that will adversely affect the land or the purpose for which the land was acquired. Traditionally, hunting outfitting on WMAs has been disallowed; that probably will not change.

The only available policy guidance is under Statute 23-1-106, which establishes that FWP can make rules, and under Statute 87-1-301 that says that the Commission shall establish rules governing the use of lands owned or controlled by the Department and waters under the jurisdiction of the Department. FWP has found that this is not sufficient guidance. FWP proposes to develop a set of rules over the next ten months that will provide clear guidance as to what commercial uses will be allowed, and will establish an application process that requires the applicant to provide sufficient information that will allow the Department to evaluate proposals and determine whether or not to authorize a particular use.

Doherty asked if this would pertain to block management areas. Smith replied it would not. This would only apply to lands that FWP owns or controls through a lease, and FWP does not own land under Block Management agreements. This also would not affect other state owned land that is currently commercially used.

The possibility also exists to generate funds for river recreation management through the development of a commercial use fee for outfitters. FWP would issue an annual commercial use license for a nominal fee that would authorize an outfitter to use any unrestricted FAS site. Restricted sites would continue to operate as they currently do. Applications would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Smith said he anticipates the rules would be largely procedural; they would define the application process and what types of decisions go to the Director and what types go to the Commission.

Mulligan said this will get a lot of attention, and will be a challenge, but it is imperative that it be done. Guidance is sorely needed. He said that a clear plan needs to be developed, and it is important to involve the public early in the process. He would like to see a time schedule very soon. Smith said contact with the public has already begun, and he added that an outline of the process will be provided to the Commission by the December meeting.

Workman asked how many fishing outfitters are involved. Charlie Sperry, FWP River Recreation Management Specialist, replied that there are 450 licensed operators. Workman asked if there would be a financial benefit to FWP. Smith replied that there is potential for financial benefit to FWP, however the assessment of fees is still under consideration; if there is no benefit, then there is no point in pursuing it. Smith said plenty of opportunity will be provided for public comment.

The proposed rules will be brought before the Commission as a tentative rule package, and will be required to go through the ARM rulemaking process.

**14. River Recreation Update – Informational.** Charlie Sperry, FWP River Recreation Management Specialist, briefly went over the spreadsheet he prepared that listed river prioritizations based on existing conditions within those rivers. He included recent accomplishments, ongoing projects, and future projects.

**Blackfoot River** - After a partial season on the Blackfoot, thirty-eight special recreation permits were issued, of which twenty-nine went to angling outfitters. Two competitive events also occurred, and the region is currently preparing a final report.

**Beaverhead and Bighole Rivers** – Substantial interest was expressed in the temporary client days that were created as a result of outfitters who forfeited their days due to lack of use. Thirteen applications were received for the Beaverhead River temporary days, and eighteen applications were received for the Bighole temporary days. Applications will be scored on November 8 for use in 2006.

**Madison River** – This river has been identified as a river where social conflicts are high. The BLM has made it known that they intend to implement a special recreation permit system on lands they own, however they have agreed to hold off until the Blackfoot River system is up and running, after which time they will determine if a cooperative system can be implemented on the Madison as well.

**Bitterroot River and Rock Creek** – Surveys are being conducted on these streams to determine if crowding or social conflicts have caused anglers to go elsewhere. The displacement issue is being studied.

**Smith River** – The current management plan has been in place for nearly ten years, and the Parks Division will be discussing whether or not the plan needs to be updated.

**Bighorn River** – This river suffers from a number of issues. It has become predominantly a non-resident fishery - approximately 70-30 percentage-wise. This river receives a lot of use, but as long as the fishing remains good, people are enjoying themselves. More information needs collected, however there are no plans at this time for any survey work. The Bighorn is considered an “area of need”, but at this time is not on the list. Hagener added the tribal folks are also involved with decisions on the Bighorn.

Sperry reiterated the point that instituting commercial use fees would serve as one mechanism for funding the river recreation program. It has been a struggle to identify funding sources for river recreation. Sperry stated that the planning manual stipulated in the statewide rules is nearly halfway completed.

**15. 2006 Non-Resident Combination License Rule / Variable Priced Licensing – Final. Hank Worsech, FWP License Bureau Chief,** reminded the Commission that the tentative rule adopted in September set the B-10 Outfitter Sponsored Big Game Combination License quota at 5,500 at a cost of \$995, the B-10 Outfitter Sponsored Elk Combination License at \$895 (part of the 5,500 quota), and the B-11 Outfitter Sponsored Deer Combination License at \$795 with a quota of 2,300.

The 2005 legislature passed HB214 which specified 300 Class B-13 Non-resident Youth Big Game Combination Licenses be sold to youth aged 12 to under 18 for half the fee of a regularly priced big game combination license. The non-resident youth must be sponsored and accompanied by an immediate family member with a valid resident deer or elk tag.

This annual rule received 30 public comments. Five comments stated they were in favor of the fee increases, seven were against the fee increases, seven were in favor of the non-resident youth combination licenses, two were against the non-resident youth combination licenses, four comments discussed non-resident landowners, and five merely asked questions but did not make comments.

*Action: Brenden moved and Workman seconded the motion to approve the 2006 Annual Rule for the Sale of Nonresident Combination Licenses as recommended by the Department. Motion carried.*

**16. Georgetown Lake No-Wake Zone – Final. Jim Kropp, FWP Enforcement Division Administrator,** reminded the Commission of the petition that FWP received from three sportsmen's groups and the Georgetown Lake Homeowners Association requesting that a no-wake zone be established at Stuart Mill Bay on Georgetown Lake. The petition was based on concerns relative to the installation of two new boat ramps on Georgetown Lake. The sportsman groups feel the increased motorized access will cause further congestion in Stuart Mill Bay, and will increase safety concerns for fisherman in float tubes or other non-motorized watercraft. The proposed area of the no-wake zone encompasses 78 acres, or just 2.7 percent of the lake.

FWP conducted a survey of the homeowners/cabin owners, and of the sixty percent who responded, 85 percent were strongly in favor of the no-wake zone. A public hearing was held in Anaconda in October with unanimous support for the proposal.

*Action: Mulligan moved and Workman seconded the motion to approve the final rule for establishing a no-wake zone on Stuart Mill Bay on Georgetown Lake as proposed by the Department. Motion carried. Three in favor – one opposed (Brenden).*

**17. Medicine River Fishing Access Site – Endorsement. Chris Hunter, FWP Fisheries Division Administrator,** explained that this is an access site that FWP acquired several years ago from MDT, who had previously bought it from Burlington Northern Railroad. The FAS is divided by the Sun River, and one side has never been used. FWP has continued to lease it to a farmer, Bill Leach, who leased it from MDT prior to leasing it from FWP. Leach has asked that FWP sell him this parcel that he has leased all these years.

Because of the value of the land and the size of the parcel, bids are not required, therefore negotiations can be made directly with Leach. Workman questioned why the Department would not want to get bids to obtain the most money possible, and if Leach wants to offer more to meet higher bids, then he has the opportunity to do that.

**Mike Aderhold, FWP Region 4 Supervisor**, said a month ago, Bill Leach approached him to inquire about FWP's plans for the half of the Sun River FAS property that is not being used. It belonged to the Leach family until the railroad condemned it. MDT bought it from the railroad for potential road construction, which did not occur, and then FWP acquired it through a land exchange. Leach has leased it from all three entities for over twenty years. Aderhold explained that this site is an old railroad bed, and is an inholding in Leach's property.

Aderhold said FWP will need to get an appraisal to sell it at a fair market value. Sun River is a dying community, and the FAS is in the center of town. The site has been fenced and signed and cleaned up. He said the piece of land across the river will not be used. It is in excess of FWP's need to provide access to Sun River. The Sun River is dewatered in the summertime, and is over-appropriated. There are other access sites along the river.

Workman said the Department has to sell the land for the most money possible to get the best dollar value for the property. Mulligan said he does not support the concept of selling land for the highest dollar if it adversely affects agricultural land. He wants to know if this landowner plans to develop it or maintain it as agricultural land. Mulligan said development is not always the best for the public - if that was the case, DNRC should sell their lands for the highest recreational value. Aderhold said negotiations will address this issue.

Doherty stated that the Department is only asking for an endorsement to proceed with negotiations as they cannot go any further without Commission approval.

*Action: Workman moved and Mulligan seconded the motion to explore the possible disposition and sale of a portion of the Medicine River Fishing Access site. Motion carried.*

**18. Echo Lake Fishing Access Site Acquisition – Final. Chris Hunter, FWP Fisheries Division Administrator**, said that in 2003, DNRC and FWP prepared an EA to develop a Fishing Access Site on Echo Lake. There are only two accesses to Echo Lake. One is this unimproved site, and one is at the Causeway. The Causeway is dangerous because boaters have to back their vehicles across a county road to launch their boats. Two options are available for acquisition of this site. FWP could enter into a twenty-year lease with DNRC at a cost of approximately \$500,000, or purchase a permanent easement through a one-time payment, based on an independent appraisal of fair market value, of an amount between \$525,000 and \$600,000. The Department's preference is the one-time payment rather than entering into a twenty-year lease that would require renegotiations later. Hunter said the money will come from the fishing access account.

Brenden asked if the appraisal met the criteria set by DNRC. Hunter said the appraisal was provided to DNRC last week for review.

*Action: Workman moved and Brenden seconded the motion to approve the permanent easement for a public Fishing Access Site at a one-time cost of between \$525,00 - \$600,000 from the Fishing Access Account.*

*Discussion: Workman asked when construction would begin. Alan Kuser, FWP FAS Coordinator, said it is scheduled for spring. Kuser said the Department will advertise for bids this winter.*

*Action on Motion: Motion carried.*

Workman asked if there had been any negotiations underway on Spencer Lake. He said it had recently been blocked off. Hunter said it is one of the 14 sites in the MOU between DNRC and FWP, but he is unsure of the status at this time – he will check into it.

#### **19. Public Opportunity to Address Issues Not Discussed at this Meeting.**

Constance Horder and John Lyndes, Canyon Creek, said their land borders the Canyon Creek WMA, and they are interested in what happens to this 2,200 acres of land if FWP disposes of it. They want to be kept aware and be involved, as they are interested in purchasing the land.

**Glenn Erickson, FWP Field Services Division Administrator**, said disposal of this land was discussed by the previous Commission, and it was discussed again a few months ago. FWP is defining what the options are and what the value of the land is before bringing it to the Commission for action. He told Horder that FWP would be developing a strategy and would provide the information to her.

Workman said he has spoken with people in the Flathead area about what constitutes a problem bear, and what constitutes euthanizing a bear. He said the public is being educated about bears, and most folks are sympathetic to bears unless they harm someone. He said FWP staff feels that the public needs protected, and if a bear gets in someone's garbage, it should be killed. He was troubled that three bears had recently been destroyed for doing what bears do. He wants to know how to change that scenario. He said if people buy a home in bear country, they need to deal with it so bears don't have to be killed. Workman said he is disturbed with taking bears out of the ecosystem because they are doing things that bears do. Mulligan said action has not been taken on other animals, so why the bear. People are living in the bear's yards.

Hagener proposed that bear conflict and public education regarding bears be addressed at the December meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

---

**Steve Doherty, Chairman**

---

**M. Jeff Hagener, Director**